

Docket No.: 7206-102  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Mathias Pauls et al

Application No.: 10/502,427

Filed: July 23, 2004

For: VALVE

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Confirmation No.: 5781

Art Unit: 3754

Examiner: Melvin A.  
Cartagena

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please accept this preliminary amendment in the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** begin on Page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 4.